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The Journal has rarely published data on economic and political geography, especially on the economic geography of separate regions of the USSR and countries of the people's democracies. Problems of methodology in geography have occupied very few pages, and discussions of theoretical problems of geography held in the fall of 1948 were not published in the Journal. There were practically no articles with criticism of antiscientific bourgeois geographical concepts.

Several measures were taken from time to time to eliminate these defects. But they did not produce the desired results, mainly because the editorial office failed to request articles on specific subjects, which were not covered by the unsolicited articles sent to the editorial office. In addition, the departments and commissions of the society were not organized to give practical aid to the editors of the Journal. The Scientific Council of the Geographical Society considers Alampiyev's article a document which will contribute to the work of the society and its central publishing organization.

To improve radically the content of the periodical Izvestiya Vsesoyuznogo Geograficheskogo Obshchestva, the Scientific Council of the Geographical Society.

1. Approved the resolution of the society's presidium concerning the expansion of the editorial staff by adding several Moscow members. The editorial members are assigned the duty of organizing in Moscow with the help of the Moscow members an author's collective association which will produce articles on important subjects which have rarely appeared in the Journal.
2. Ordered the editorial board of the Journal, upon obtaining material of readers' correspondence conferences, to process this material and submit the results to the Scientific Council.
3. Ordered the editorial board of the Journal to order systematically articles by authors on important subjects connected with the most important events in the life of our country, with international life, and the fight on the ideological front; noted with approval that the editors have already ordered articles on the importance of the works of I. V. Stalin for geography, on the economic geography of the Tuva Autonomous Republic, on industrialization of countries of the peoples' democracies, on the Mongolian People's Republic, and on the People's Republic of China.
4. Ordered the departments and commissions of the society to supply representatives for permanent liaison with the editors of the Journal and to make it the duty of presidiums of departments and commissions to give aid to the Journal by the active collection of articles for it. Such articles may be from the best and most important scientific reports discussed at sessions of these departments and commissions, and may be written independently on their personal initiative, or upon request of the editors of the Journal.
5. Decided to bring the problem of the need for a larger Journal again to the consideration of the proper authorities.
6. Decided to draw up and discuss a report on the operation of the Journal at least once a year at meetings of the Scientific Council which will be attended by many members of the society.
7. Ordered improvement of the reviews published in the Journal to obtain sharper criticism and ideological orientation.
8. Ordered the editors of the Journal to develop a charter and draw up each year a plan for ordering articles on the most important geographical subjects, particularly on problems of methodology in geography, on criticism of bourgeois pseudoscientific geographical theories, and on economic and political geography.

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9. Ordered the editors of the journal to take the recommendations made by members of this conference into consideration in all their future work.

10. Decided to inform the editorial board of Literaturnaya Gazeta of this session. The complete minutes of the meeting will be sent to the Department of Geologicogeographical Sciences, Academy of Sciences USSR, for information.

## II

The following members discussed a list of the most important scientific problems to be worked on in 1950 by departments and commissions of the society (S. V. Kalesnik's report): A. A. Korchagin, K. A. Salishchev, Academician D. V. Nalivkin, F. F. Davitsya, M. B. Vol'f, Academician A. A. Grigor'yev, Academician L. S. Berg, and P. I. Bydin.

The members decreed that:

1. The following rough draft of basic scientific problems for departments and commissions of the Geographical Society be approved for 1950:

a. Problems of the Theory and Methodology of Science, the Priority of Soviet Science, Criticism of Bourgeois Pseudoscientific Theories -- all departments and commissions.

b. "The Stalin Plan for Transformation of Nature" -- the Department of Physical Geography and all its commissions, the Department of Biogeography and its commissions, the Department of Economic Geography.

c. Study of the City of Leningrad, Leningrad Oblast, and the Northwest RSFSR -- the Department of Physical Geography and all its commissions, the Department of Biogeography, the Department of Economic Geography, the Commission of Military Geography, the Commission on the Study of Cities, the Cartographic Commission, and the School Section.

d. The Study of China and Especially of Central Asia -- the Department of Physical Geography.

e. Study of the Regime and Formation of Ground Waters in Connection With Their Use for Construction, Agriculture, and Industry -- the Hydrogeological Commission.

f. The Problem of Studying Deserts and Mountains in Connection With Their Utilization -- the Commission of Geomorphology and Paleogeography, and the Commission of High-Mountain Studies.

g. The Factors of Soil Formation -- the Soil Commission.

h. The Geography of the Timber Industry -- the Commission on Waters and Forests.

i. Methods of Teaching Economic Geography in Higher Schools -- the Department of Economic Geography.

j. Socialist Culture and Life of the Peoples of the USSR -- the Department of Ethnography.

k. The Life and Culture of Countries of the People's Democracies -- the Department of Ethnography;

l. Ethnogenesis -- the Department of Ethnography.

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m. History of Studies of the Arctic, Antarctic, and China -- the Department of History of Geographical Sciences.

k. Landscapes in Military Geography -- the Commission of Military Geography.

o. The Use of Aerial Surveying in Various Branches of Science and the Economy -- the Commission of Aerial Surveying.

p. Methods and Methodology of School Geography -- the School Section.

2. All departments and commissions should supplement their work plans with problems of the geography of countries of the people's democracies.

3. The departments and commissions should systematically discuss at their sessions the more important geographical works published in the USSR.

### III

The conclusions of the Expertise Commission on awarding the Great Gold Medal of the Geographical Society for 1949 were read by Academician D. V. Nalivdin, Chairman. The conclusions of the Expertise Commission on awarding the S. Dezhnev prize for 1948 were read by Professor S. V. Obruchev, secretary of the commission (because of illness of the commission chairman, V. Yu. Vize, Corresponding Member, Academy of Sciences USSR).

The following participated in judging the various candidates: Academician A. A. Grigor'yev, Academician L. S. Berg, A. A. Korchagin, S. V. Kalesnik, O. A. Konstantinov, Ye. Ye. Shvede, and V. V. Kavrayskiy.

After detailed consideration of the candidates and reports on the works submitted, the Scientific Council, having established the quorum necessary for voting, selected a counting committee composed of A. A. Korchagin, N. N. Stepanov, and I. I. Babkov and proceeded with the secret vote. Twelve members of the Scientific Council voted.

As a result of the voting, the Great Gold Medal of the Geographical Society for 1949 with a prize of 25,000 rubles was awarded to V. Yu. Vize, on the basis of Section 4, Paragraph "d" in the regulations governing medals of the Geographical Society "for works in various branches of geography which throw completely new light upon the most important and broadest problems of science."

The S. I. Dezhnev prize for 1948 of 15,000 rubles was awarded to D. M. Kolosov, Candidate of Geographical Sciences, for his work "The Problem of Ancient Glaciation of the Northeast USSR."

### IV

Those attending the meeting also heard the proposal of the presidium of the Geographical Society on changing the name of the Department of Mathematical Geography to the Department of Mathematical Geography and Cartography.

It was decreed that: (1) the Department of Mathematical Geography shall be renamed the Department of Mathematical Geography and Cartography, having the Aerial Photographic Surveying and Cartographic commissions; and that (2) re-elections of the bureaus of the department shall be held.

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V

It was announced that 18 persons examined by the presidium of the Geographical Society had been accepted as active members of the society. They are:  
A. Ya. Andreyev, N. N. Gribanov, A. V. Zabello, Ye. S. Korotkevich, G. V. Korotkevich, N. G. Mikhaylovskiy, Yu. M. Ortlebskiy, Yu. A. Panteleyev, V. V. Ponomareva, A. G. Svetlov, A. F. Senin, P. G. Sutyagin, V. V. Frolov, F. I. Chervyak, A. P. Chumin, I. D. Yurkevich, L. I. Bonifat'yeva, and G. V. Fedorova.

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